



AFBA is proud to support NGAMS and its members.





Group Term life insurance coverage is available with no combat or terrorism exclusions through the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program, underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company.

Contact the National Guard Association of Mississippi at www.NGAMS.org or (601) 354-7555 to learn more.

U.S. Army Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Dennis.

Member death benefits provided by AFBA are underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company (a Lincoln, NE company) with an administrative office at 909 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. This member benefit is offered only to its National Guard Association members in the state of Mississippi.

Policy forms: LT050197(REV); GNGPOLICY-MS-R413; GNG-060103

NGAMS Standard MagR0321

The STANDARD

The cover of this year's Standard is a small sample of two things: the amazing ability and versatility of our Service members as well as their incredible sacrifice. This generation of Service member no longer serves one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Previously a "summer camp" in Germany or Korea was a once in a career trip. Now members of the Mississippi National Guard routinely deploy overseas and called to serve within the state and nation multiple times. Further, there is no sign of it slowing. More than ever you need a source for the connecting the members of the Mississippi National Guard to the resources that allow them to be the bridge between the military and the civilian sectors. The National Guard Association of Mississippi is that source.

This year the National Guard Association of Mississippi continues to add more online resources at www.ngams.org. Let the NGAMS Standard be your guide to our online services and additional resource for information on both our programs as well as the companies that provide you the ability to better serve our state and nation. We are very excited to provide these services to you and look forward to continuing to set the Standard.





The STANDARD

SHUBLION

apital City Beverages14
apital Ortho14
olumbia College/Missouri14
olumbia Southern University
onflict Kinetics
eployed Resources15
igiflight15
rip Drop Hydration15
ES – Eureka! Expeditionary Systems15
nerSys15
SCAPE International15

DIAMOND LEVEL * *

AM General	. 18
Atmos Energy	. 4
Big Ass Fans	. 27
GV "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation	. 38
Lista/Vidmar	. 28
LiteFighter Systems LLC	.50
Paramount Construction Group	.46

PATRIOT PARTNERS

 1st Heritage Credit LLC
 10

 Airbus Helicopters
 23

 Armed Forces Benefit Association
 Inside Front Cover

 BancorpSouth
 Inside Back Cover

 Capital City Beverage
 7

Keesler Federal Credit Union35Mississippi Farm BureauBack CoverPhantom Products, Inc8Pinnacle Wealth45Trustmark Tailored Wealth4

PATRIOT LEVEL * * *

PLATINUM LEVEL *

PLATINON ELVEL	
BAE Systems, Inc	37
The Boeing Company	19
Capital Ortho	13
Deployed Resources	44
Digiflight	43
ESS Inc.	42
Mobile Technology Graphics	9
MulePAC	36
Oshkosh Defense	27
PowerFlare Safety Beacons	19
PTS, Inc.	42
Sikorsky, A Lockheed Martin Company	27
T-Mobile	19
Trustmark	4
Walker Associates	14
Windham & Lacey CPA	1
XGO	
Yates Construction	36

★ Patriot Partner exhibitors are designated by three stars for Patriot Level, two stars for Diamond Level and one star for Platinum Level.

EXHIBITORS

AFBA	
Airbus	9
AM General	.9
American Military University	11
American Seniors Benefit, LLC	. 11
BAE Systems, Inc	. 11
BancorpSouth	. 11
Benchmade Knife Company	. 13
Big Ass Fans	. 13
Boeing Company	. 13
Camgian	. 13

Deployed Resources
EES - Eureka! Expeditionary Systems
EnerSys
ESCAPE International
Eye Safety Systems, Inc
First-Light USA
Galvion
G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center for America's Veterans .22
Humana Military – TRICARE East22
Indiana Wesleyan University22
INVISIO22
JBHM Architecture22
JM5, LLC22
Keesler Federal Credit Union
Laser Shot, Inc
Lincoln College of Technology
Lista/Vidmar
LiteFighter Systems LLC
Mississippi Armed Forces Museum
Mississippi Veterans Affairs
Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation
Mississippi Youth Challenge Academy
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Paramount Construction Group, LLC
Perkins Technical Services, Inc
Phantom Products, Inc
Pinnacle Wealth
Power Breezer
PowerFlare Safety Beacons
Princeton Tec
Revision
Rocky Brands, Inc
Rocky Research
ROG, LLC 36
Sikorsky, A Lockheed Martin Company
Source Tactical
Strategic Systems, Inc
T-Mobile
Tricent University International
Trustmark National Bank
Vertex Aerospace
Veterans' Home Purchase Board
The Walker Associates
Windham & Lacey, CPA
XGO
W. G. Yates and Sons Construction Company 44
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WEB SITE:

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Pictured above is the War Memorial Building 120 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39205

THE

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http://www.ngaus.org/ngaus-membership-makes-guard-stronger/member-benefits

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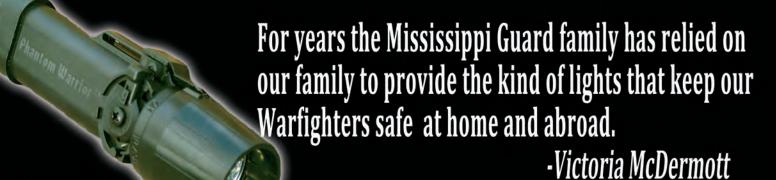
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The Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) is a not-forprofit association established in 1947 to promote the general welfare and economic interests of military families during war and peace. Over time, we have expanded membership eligibility to also serve federal government employees and contractors, as well as first responders - law enforcement. firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Today, we serve more than 600,000 members protected by over \$39B of survivor benefits. More than \$1.9B of survivor benefits have been paid to the families of AFBA members since our founding. Survivor benefits are funded by life insurance underwritten by AFBA affiliate, 5Star Life Insurance Company, a Nebraska company. AFBA - Always Ready, Always There for the National Guard.

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The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum honors the servicemen and women of all branches from Mississippi and others who received training in Mississippi during times of war. The Museum's exhibits tell the personal stories of American heroes, and serve to educate future generations about the price paid for freedom and prosperity.

The mission of the Mississippi Armed Forces
Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit,
and hold in public trust for the exclusive benefit of
the people, significant historical property related
to the history of the State of Mississippi and its
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Bernie Knight

Why Should I Join the Nation of Mississippi?

The motto that hangs by the door of the National Guard Association of Mississippi office reads "If we as members of the National Guard don't set the course of our future then someone not in the National Guard will do it for us."

This phrase is the cornerstone of everything we do as an association. It starts with the newest Service member during their initial training all the way through retirement.

For those of us that work for or involved in the Association, membership should be a gimme. After all, the Association protects the member benefits, expands career prospects, advances the interests of the Mississippi National Guard, and provides two of the most entertaining and educational, yet affordable, conferences.

However, there have been times where an officer will ask "Why should I pay my dues to NGAMS? What does NGAMS do for me?". There are so many reasons to be a part to include instant insurance support in the time of tragedy, being a vehicle to have your voice heard, and providing you direct access to military and civilian leadership. However one of the most tangible is the legislative successes. Each year we list the results of our work for you. Our Service members, families, and Patriot Partners know we get results in Mississippi. Further, it is important to be able to see those results. Most Service members only know of the \$15,000 state income tax benefit. However there is so much more.

Since the 2015 legislative session the National Guard Association of Mississippi has been responsible for 56 updates to the laws of Mississippi. Obviously over the course of seven legislative sessions that is a lot of updates. Further it is easy to get lost in the numbers and lose sight of the reasoning behind the changes. However there is a story linked to each. Listed below are the stories behind the updates. Their names are changed to respect their privacy.

In 2016 Scott, a 21 year old specialist in the Mississippi National Guard, lived with his wife Sara and young son in Northwest Mississippi. In the latter part of the year he moved his family to a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee. He subsequently attended a training exercise in the Western United States and was injured. Due to their financial situation his wife was unable to travel to be with him in the hospital and struggled with their bills at home. Mississippi Code Annotated Section 33-4-1 created the Mississippi Military Family Relief Fund.

continued on page 43





CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS 2021

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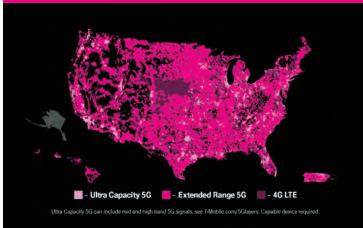
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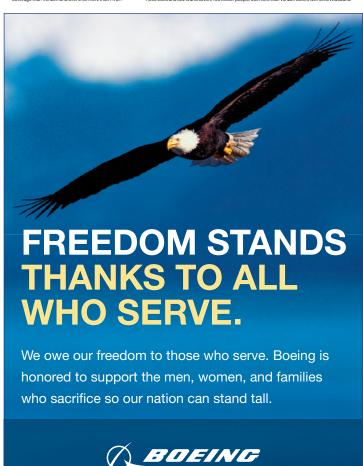
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State Sponsored Life Insurance

As we have referenced many times, insurance is not a pleasant topic as it forces us to face our own or a loved one's mortality. However, it is a topic that must be discussed to ensure the financial stability of our families. Sadly, one hundred forty-two of our families dealt with this eventuality this fiscal year. Our insurance program provided \$1,507,500 in assistance in support of claims of one hundred two Service members and thirty three dependents. Unfortunately, seven of our families did not have coverage through the Association.

Commanders are responsible for ensuring the readiness of their soldiers and airmen- this is the number one priority. Part of this responsibility should be addressing financial management planning, which includes insurance. If our National Guard families are aware of the benefits and minimal cost, they would likely carry at least the minimum coverage the NGAMS Insurance program offers. To that end, leaders are encouraged to help each member understand their whole family can be insured for as little as \$6.80 per month.

Currently, the combined Air and Army National Guard insurance participation is fifty-five percent. The Air National Guard participation is thirty-nine percent while the Army National Guard participation is fifty-eight percent. The NGAMS staff is always ready to provide units their current level reports to assist commanders in reviewing their participation. Again, the goal is to make sure Service members are aware of the tremendous benefit offered by the Association and their responsibility to provide for their dependents when tragedy strikes.

Please contact the NGAMS office at 601-354-7555 for any questions regarding enrollment or other matters. Also, leaders are encouraged to call and set up an insurance presentation at their respective units. Working together, we can make a difference.

> Col Britt Watson/LTC Deidre Smith Co-Chairs. Committee on Insurance



No Cost \$1.000 Death Benefit for Active Guard Members

This benefit is free to you. All Mississippi active guard members are covered 24/7 whether drilling or not. There's no enrollment necessary - you are automatically eligible for this benefit should something happen to you. Death benefit is paid to named beneficiary, spouse, or next of kin.



Basic Coverage

The Basic program provides financial protection in the event of death. It also provides coverage for your spouse and/or children, all at an affordable monthly cost.

Member Coverage

Basic coverage gives you 4 options. After 12 consecutive months, you are eligible for increased insurance which becomes effective on the next June 1 following completion of the 12 month period.

The additional coverage is at no-cost to you.

Member Coverage					
Amount	Monthly cost	After 12 months			
\$10,000	\$3.80	\$12,500			
\$16,000	\$6.00	\$21,000			
\$25,000	\$8.95	\$32,500			
\$35,000	\$12.25	\$45,000			

Dependent Coverage

If you and your spouse are both members of the MS National Guard vou must have your own individual coverage. Either you or your spouse can apply for coverage on children but not both.

Dependent Coverage				
Spouse	Each child	Monthly cost		
\$10,000	\$2,500	\$3.00		
\$15,000	\$5,000	\$4.00		
\$30,000	\$10,000	\$8.00		
\$50,000	\$15,000	\$13.00		

Separation: If you have been insured for 12 consecutive months, you can retain your basic coverage until age 60. You may keep the same amount in force except for the extra increased insurance. You can pay the monthly contribution on a direct bill basis.

Retirement: At retirement, if you have 20 years of service and have been insured for 12 consecutive months, coverage continues in force until age 60 at the same premium. Between 60 - 70 death benefit reduces to \$10,000, spouse benefit to \$10,000, and dependent children to \$2,500. At age 70, death benefit reduces to \$5,000, spouse benefit to \$5,000, and dependent children remains at \$2,500.

Spouse retention: A surviving spouse age 59 or less of an insured member who dies before age 60 can retain the coverage he/she carried as a dependent of the deceased Guard member and may include related coverage on the already insured dependent children at a slightly higher cost.



Enhanced Coverage

When you have the maximum coverage in the Basic program, you can purchase additional coverage. The Enhanced program provides affordable term life insurance with a level death benefit and only 3 age bands for contributions.

Affordable life insurance

You can purchase \$50,000 of protection for as little as \$4 a month if you're under 50 years of age and don't use tobacco products. Contributions increase at each age band as shown below.

No medical exam for Guard members under age 50 applying for up to \$250,000 of coverage and ages 50-59 up to \$100,000. For spouses, no medical exam under age 40 up to \$250,000 and under age 50 up to \$150,000. Just complete the enrollment form and answer a few health questions.

Coverage from \$50,000 to \$400,000

Based on your individual situation, you decide how much coverage is right for you and your family.

Emergency death benefit payment

Emergency death benefit payment of up to \$15,000 within one business day of notification to help your loved ones with immediate costs.

Full coverage after retirement or separation

As long as contributions are paid, coverage continues to age 70*. There are no occupation restrictions, so regardless of what you do after the military, you're covered. Regardless of any health issues that may develop in the future, you're still covered. Upon retirement or separation, policy contributions will be paid directly to AFBA rather than through allotment.

Spouse coverage

You can easily purchase coverage for your spouse on the same application.

Monthly Contributions (Male/Female) Non-Tobacco**								
Age	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$400,000
18-49	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
50-59	\$18.00	\$36.00	\$54.00	\$72.00	\$90.00	\$108.00	\$126.00	\$144.00
60-69	\$44.00	\$88.00	\$132.00	\$176.00	\$220.00	\$264.00	\$308.00	\$352.00

^{**}Tobacco user contributions are two (2) times non-tobacco user contributions. Tobacco user is one who has used any tobacco product in the past 12 months.

Medical Requirements for Current or Former Military Member				
	18-39	40-49	50-59	
\$50,000				
\$51,000 - \$100,000				
\$101,000 - \$150,000				
\$151,000 - \$200,000				
\$201,000 - \$250,000				
\$251,000 - \$300,000				
\$301,000 - \$400,000				

Statement of Health Paramed Exam, Blood Profile and Urinalysis

Paramed Exam, Blood Profile and Urinalysis and Resting EKG

You can provide the protection and peace of mind your loved ones need at affordable rates with AFBA. All active Mississippi National Guard members are eligible to apply. In addition to peace of mind, an AFBA membership gives you access to a wealth of benefits and products designed with your needs in mind.

Visit www.afba.com for complete details on other member benefits.

Medical Requirements for Non-Military Spouse \$50,000 \$51,000 - \$100,000 \$101,000 - \$150,000 \$151,000 - \$200,000 \$201,000 - \$250,000 \$251,000 - \$300,000 \$301,000 - \$400,000

^{*} After 70th birthday, Enhanced coverage terminates on coverage anniversary date.

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G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY CENTER FOR AMERICA'S **VETERANS** **

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With locations in three states, plus the United Kingdom, Keesler Federal membership is widely available to thousands of people who live, work, worship or attend school in the communities we serve.

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Major General (Retired) Harry Dalton started a group in 1973 of retired officers meeting for breakfast in Jackson. In 1980. Brigadier General (Retired) Bud Moore became the chairman of the group and provided the name, "At Ease Gang" for the statewide association of retired Army and Air National Guard officers. Charlie Morris designed

the crest for the organization. At the top and bottom of the crest, portions of magnolia leaves are visible, representing the State of Mississippi's state flower. A scroll near the top of the crest reads, "RETIRED OFFICERS. MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD." The center of the crest has an eagle, symbolic of the United States imposed over two

"DD's representing the service the State provided from 1923 to 1968 to the 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division including service during World War II and Korea. Some of the Regiments that comprised the "Dixie" Division date back to 1798. At the base of the

crest, three rifles are stack-arms with a scroll with the motto that reads, "STACKED BUT LOADED, AT EASE BUT READY".

Today the At Ease members number near 1,000 strong. The next closest State has only a little over 300 members. Our numbers allow our Association to increase our delegates by one for every 50 retirees. For years this increased number has allowed Mississippi a great amount of influence at the National Guard Association of the United States Conference.

There are seven official chapters that meet monthly in the state at the following locations: Brookhaven, Grenada, Gulf Coast (Biloxi), Hattiesburg, Meridian, Northeast Mississippi (Tupelo) and Jackson. The AT Ease Gang also meets for breakfast once a year at the Annual National Guard Conference and each year as part of Retiree Day at Camp Shelby.

The At Ease Gang is proud of their communities, state, and country. They are active as individual chapters supporting such worthwhile causes as college scholarships and birthday wishes at the Palmer Children's Homes. They also collectively support our military community as a whole, both those actively serving and retired.

STACKED BUT LOADED, AT EASE BUT READY

The retired members of the Mississippi Air and Army National Guard continue to set the standard for service after their days in uniform are complete.







Please visit www.ngams.org under the Retirees tab and find a chapter near you. Information on each chapter can be found on their respective drop downs. Additional information may also be gained by contacting your retiree representatives COL James "Jim" Jackson (Army Representative) and Brig Gen David Kirtley (Air Representative). As you complete your service to our state and country we hope you desire to continue serving by joining with a chapter of the At Ease Gang.















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Melisssa Wade 601-576-4857 (office) 601-502-7149 (cell) mwade@msva.ms.gov 699 North Street, Suite 200 Jackson, Mississippi 39202

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Tanya Mohawk

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Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation is constructing Camp Kamassa, Mississippi's first and only year-round fully handicap accessible camp facility for children and adults with serious illnesses, physical and mental challenges, and other special needs. Camp Kamassa will serve all 82 Mississippi counties. Thanks to a partnership with the U.S. Military through the Innovative Readiness Training Program, construction is 30% complete.

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The G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center for America's Veterans located on the campus of Mississippi State University is a National Leader in providing comprehensive support through a University based Veteran Resource Center.

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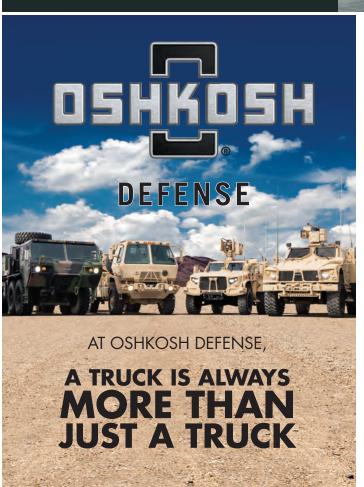
The mission of the MS Youth ChalleNGe Academy is to intervene and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18 year old youth, who are at risk or have dropped out of high school,

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Jonathan McDaniel President 601.427.5454 O (Ext. 201) 601.427.5456 F www.pcgcontracting.com Duns# 965560829

Paramount Construction Group was founded in November 2010 in the Jackson, Mississippi-area as a verified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Enterprise as well as a licensed, insured, and bonded general contractor. Earlier PCG projects included subcontracting roles for larger firms performing commercial site rehabilitation, building rehabilitation, and installation of site utilities.

After gaining more experience on commercial and federal projects, PCG began to assume more prime contractor roles. Recent clients include The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The U.S. Navy, The U.S. Air Force, The U. S. Department of the Interior, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and many other public and private entities.

PCG's top priorities revolve around always keeping the project owner in mind, as well as being on-schedule, within budget, and constantly vigilant about Health & Safety and the prevention of accidents. We strive to build a lasting company that will continue offering quality construction services for years to come.

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Phantom Products designs and builds life saving, combat multiplying lights for the battlefield and the home front. Our covert Phantom Warrior® flashlights are the official flashlight of army aviation, combat medics and special ops. Our Phantom Bellabeam®, Phantom AZL™ and our mightflare® lights dominate battlefield ground marking. When the military needs upgraded vehicle lights, they come to Phantom because they know we keep ourselves on the cutting edge of the latest in optical and heat transfer designs. And for TOCs.... well, we have lights for that too! If you work at night, we have something to make your job easier so that you make it home safely to your family, and our family

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supports the Mississippi Guard Family because we know that the National Guard is critical to our security. Thank you for what you do and for letting us be a part of it. #teamphantom loves #NGAMS!

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Martin Palomo 601-957-0323 703-338-3858 mpalomo@pinntrust.com 101 Port Street, Suite 200 Madison, Mississippi 39110

Pinnacle's mission is to deeply serve our clients and invest in our community (locally, nationally, and globally). We want to help people assemble to scattered puzzle pieces of their financial life. There are so many decisions that are made around retirement, risk management, and social security/ pensions that many people make alone with regret. Our goal is to be a partner in your financial journey to give confidence in your decisions and limit remorse.

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PowerFlare® Safety Beacons are used throughout the Guard, for deployments, DOMOPS, training, LZs, and convoys to name just a few of the many uses. Safety Offices love military-grade PowerFlare beacons, because they save lives and equipment from avoidable accidents. Available in various colors (including IR) and two battery types.

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THE NGAMS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The NGAMS Scholarship, proposed by former NGAMS President Colonel Tom Crosby, is a competitive scholarship that provides \$6,000 per year to exceptionally qualified officers in the Mississippi National Guard and their dependents. Each year the NGAMS Board of Directors approves scholarships to help students in both undergraduate and graduate programs obtain their initial degrees.

We are pleased to announce that after eleven recipients and over one hundred classes taken there have only been five "B"s. The rest have been "A"s. We look forward to the next class continuing that success. Applications and other details may be found at www.ngams.org.



Mr. Andrew Ratcliffe

Andrew completed an amazing high school career as a member of the National Honor Society and as captain of his high school swim team. He also played varsity football and tennis. He is active in over ten charitable and service organizations to include Kids Annual Training Camp Shelby, MS National Guard Youth Council, and Mississippi American Legion Boys State.

Can you please describe the role of the National Guard in our society and how that role could be best communicated to the population that is not in the military?

The role of the National Guard in the United States of America is one that is of paramount importance to our nation and plays a vital role in keeping our country sake. Our National Guard is federally funded, but state controlled, which leads to a wide variability in tasks they may be called upon to accomplish. When guard units are called upon for assistance within their respective states, they may be tasked with duties such as responding to weather emergencies or civil unrest within the state. On a federal level, the National Guard can be utilized when the president calls upon its troops to provide assistance in larger domestic emergencies or to embark on overseas combat missions in support of ongoing operations. As the son of a National Guard officer, I have experienced firsthand the impact that our troops can have both here and abroad. Even though lengthy absences can be hard on families (and especially children) the significant role that our National Guard plays in our local and international theatres far outweighs any of the negatives. My hope is that, in the future, my generation will have a better understanding of the responsibilities and magnitude of the job of our citizen soldiers and military first responders.



2021 NGAMS

Major David Leiva

David serves as Director of the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities for Camp Shelby and assigned to Headquarters Company, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team as the Brigade Civil Affairs Officer. David is a member of the International Economic Development Council Higher Education Advisory Committee and the Disaster Recovery International Foundation Veterans Outreach Program Scholarship awardee.

How would you best describe the role of the National Guard and how it has changed during the course of your career?

When a plane that fails to identify itself enters Washington D.C.'s no-fly zone, it will probably be a National Guardsman who, if ordered, will launch an anti-aircraft missile to protect the residents and lawmakers of the United States Capitol. When a U.S. embassy in a hostile country finds itself in need of emergency assistance, it will probably be National Guardsmen in F-16 jets scrambled out of Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, who will demonstrate American resolve. When a tornado rips through a small community and decimates the town's infrastructure and spirits, it will probably be National Guardsmen at checkpoints ensuring security while others are using chainsaws to remove fallen trees so that the residents can begin the long road to recovery. The National Guard has evolved from the militia in 1636 to a formal mention in the U.S. Constitution to being the emergency relief valve of the early parts of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns to serving a major role in the National Defense Strategy. Today's National Guardsmen are guardians of the multidomain warfare — land, sea, air, cyberspace, and, one day, space. It would be unrecognizable to its forefathers, and that, perhaps, is the point.

Private First Class Wyatt Chamberlain

Wyatt is already a member of the Mississippi National Guard after serving in the Junior ROTC as Cadet Captain. Among his many accolades in his young career Wyatt has served as Squad Leader in Basic Training, earned the US Army Marksmanship Badge in Rifle and Grenade and JROTC Superior Cadet Ribbon. In high school he was a member of the swim team as well as a rodeo bull rider and brown belt in Tae Kwon Do. Among his many volunteer activities Wyatt serves with the Mississippi Exchange Club and Central Mississippi Turtle Rescue.

How can we best relay the importance of the Mississippi National Guard to the general population?

Many people outside of the National Guard may be aware of our presence in the community, but they may not be aware of all of our key mission areas, capabilities, or roles. This knowledge and these roles can be best communicated to non-military populations by public outreach, and community involvement within our realms of influence. Key ways this can be accomplished is by inclusion of personnel in Local Emergency Planning Committees, involvement with civic activities such as ruck marches for children's toys and charitable events, and even community enhancement projects around our state. One great idea is the Air National Guard annual Flight to the North Pole for Angel Tree kids; thus creating a positive spotlight on the Guard. These events along with media outreach ensure Guard capabilities are seen by the general public.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Captain Jack Smith

Jack is the Assistant S-3 for the 1-204th Air Defense Artillery and on the COVID-19 Task Force. He is a 2015 graduate of the Mississippi Military Academy where he earned the MMA OCS Class 057 Excellence Award for Academics and Leadership. Jack was a member of the 2006 University of Mississippi Student Hall of Fame, earned the 2004 Hinds Community College 3E Outstanding Student Award, and a member of the 2004 Clarion Ledger's All-Mississippi Academic Team. He served as the US Representative, Republic of Estonia for the Military Reserve Exchange Program in addition to Bible Study Group Leader for his unit.



How did you decide to join the Army National Guard?

From early childhood through my adolescent years, I would drive past the II3th Military Police Company off Highway 468 in Brandon, MS and often wonder what it would be like to wear the Army uniform. I would see National Guard Soldiers standing in formation outside and military vehicles staging for a convoy. I also noticed the sign conspicuously located in the front lawn of the property identifying who the commanding officer and senior enlisted leaders were at the time and how those names changed every few years. To the local community, this armory was a hub of activity for various organizations and still is today. Being a Brandon resident, in January of 2013, I drove by the II3th MP Company for the last time as a civilian. I arrived home, had a conversation with my wife, attended a few lunch meetings with friends of mine who served before me, and swore the oath of enlistment into the military a few months later.



From Our Military Heritage to Yours.



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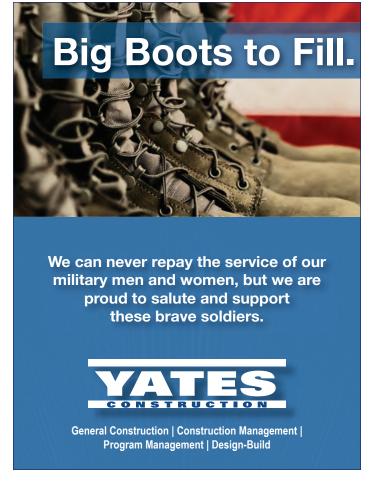
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Strategic Systems Inc.is a Leader in the manufacturer of Military Firing Range Target Systems, Industrial Automation and Precision Machine Facility located in North Alabama.

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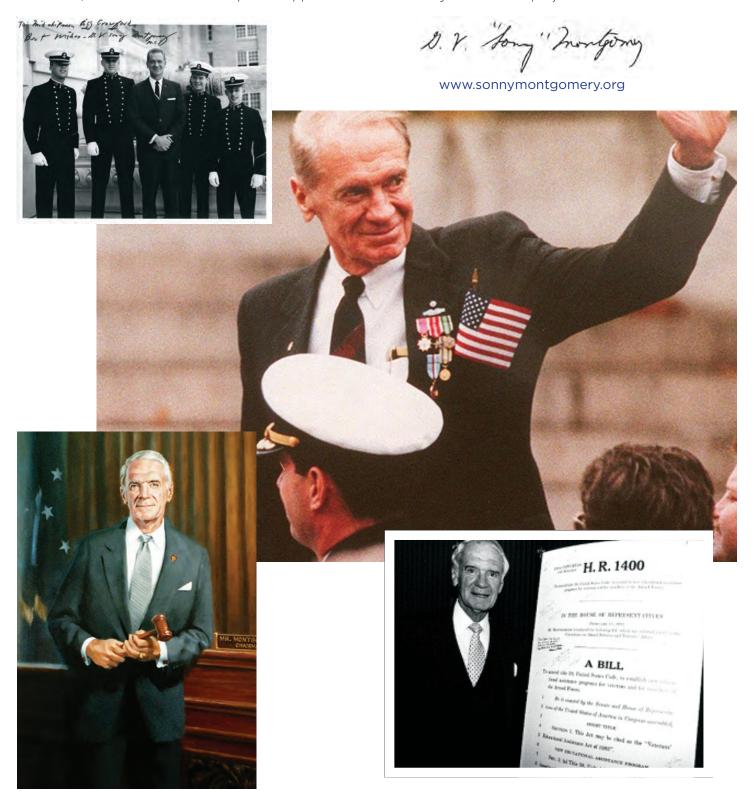
customer base by expanding the markets it serves as well as the products and services it provides. After building a statewide banking system in Mississippi, Trustmark entered the insurance industry in 1999. In 2001, Trustmark expanded into the Tennessee market and then entered the Florida and Texas markets in 2003 and 2004, respectively. In 2013, Trustmark expanded its footprint to include the Alabama market. Trustmark Corporation, with approximately \$13 billion in assets, is a diversified financial services company. We provide banking, wealth management and insurance solutions through our subsidiaries including Trustmark National Bank, TRMK Risk Management, Inc., Trustmark Investment Advisors, Inc., and Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance, Inc. With locations in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, we have over 2,800 associates working to achieve outstanding customer satisfaction by understanding our customers' businesses and needs and providing appropriate financial solution. We believe building strong customer relationships is the result of knowing our customers. We realize the inherent trust you place in your financial institution, and we look forward to the opportunity to prove

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The Foundation strives to carry his legacy forward as it recognizes civilian and military leaders who have excelled and made significant contributions to excellence in his or her field, encourages leadership development, education, excellence in scholarship and support of various military and veteran projects and needs.





G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation Award

Captain Deandre Eiland

The National Guard Association of Mississippi is pleased to announce Captain Deandre K. Eiland has earned the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation Leadership Award.

Captain Eiland currently serves as Training Officer for the 1-98th Cavalry Squadron. In the last two years, he has served and supported in multiple high profile events, including the 155th ABCT's recent deployment Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), Arctic Anvil, Washington D.C. Civil Unrest, and COVID-19 Community Based Testing team support. He volunteered in numerous events, to include the 66th Troop Command's Patriot South HURREX exercise and participated in local Mississippi community food drives.

Captain Eiland is the embodiment of the qualities and character that the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Leadership Foundation Leadership Award seeks to recognize. No matter the assignment or position, Captain Eiland has withstood the tests that separate the good from the great. Read his full biography, to include his incredible list of accomplishments and awards, on our homepage www.ngams.org.





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Trustmark Investment Advisors, Inc. (TIAI) is a registered investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated in the state of Mississippi.

TIAI provides customized investment management services for Trustmark National Bank's Tailored Wealth division's Trust Group. Clients of the Trust Group include: Individuals. Institutions. Foundations, Endowments, and Charitable Organizations. TIAI had approximately \$2.5 billion in regulatory assets under management as of 12/31/2020.

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The Veterans' Home Purchase Board was established by an Act of the Mississippi State Legislature to provide a benefit in the form of

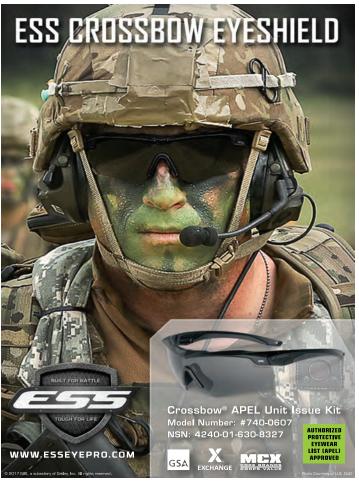




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"Thank you to everyone who left the safety and security of their homes and their families to unselfishly serve our country. There are no words that can match the magnitude of your service and your sacrifice," President and CEO of Atmos Energy Mike Haefner said. "To our employees who are currently on leave to serve their country, you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers."







continued from page 16

Money in the fund is to be utilized to make grants to families that experience a financial hardship as a result of a family member who is a member of the Mississippi National Guard. Unfortunately the law did not allow the fund to be used if the Service member lived outside of Mississippi. However we were able to get the law changed to allow it to be used for members of the Mississippi National Guard that lived outside of the state. This fund literally saved Scott and Sara from financial disaster.

In another example, Jason and Sam graduated high school together in 2014 in Southwest Mississippi. Jason joined the Mississippi Air National Guard as a member of Security Forces and Sam joined the Air Force in an administrative role. Shortly after they turned 19 years old they both applied for their concealed carry permits. It was then Jason found out the Mississippi National Guard was not included under the term "United States Armed Forces" when an 18-21 year old is applying for the basic concealed carry permit. We updated the law to include a well trained member of Security Forces. However this was an oversight that we also found in many other places in the Mississippi Code. Since that time we have corrected numerous other code sections.

In 2018 a county in south Mississippi wanted to provide the Mississippi National Guard land for a new armory in its new industrial park. However the current laws would not allow it. We amended the Mississippi Code to revise the entities to which economic development districts may transfer industrial sites within industrial parks to include the Mississippi Military Department and the Mississippi National Guard. This is an incredibly

important revision as it allows counties to provide property in Economic Development Districts for building of armories. This allows our armories to be situated in areas that can better serve our communities in times of disaster and help in recruitment due to increased visibility. Armories will be on main transportation corridors and in areas containing very good infrastructure.

In fall of 2019 we had a local sheriff's department that wanted to hire one of our military police officers. However, by statute, the Service member was required to repeat training already provided in the military. We amended the Mississippi Code, to authorize the board on law enforcement officer standards

and training to consider certain military training when determining whether an applicant has satisfied certain requirements in order to be qualified for appointment or employment as a law enforcement officer. This is an incredible benefit and advantage for our Service members with military police or similar credentials as it allows them the possibility of not having to conduct redundant training. It also gives an incentive for local law enforcement agencies to hire members of the Mississippi National Guard as they can sooner complete initial training and begin work in their field of service.

We could fill the rest of the Standard magazine with other examples of issues that arise in the day to day lives of our Service members. The members of our Mississippi Legislature are honorable and capable individuals who sacrifice time away from their families and careers to serve our state. Unfortunately, of the nearly 200 members, you can count on two hands the number that have any type of military experience. You can count on one hand the legislators with experience in the Mississippi National Guard. The National Guard Association fills that gap.

2021 is no exception to our service to you. Read below and on our NGAMS Home Page to find out there are, among many other things, 13,800,000 reasons to join the National Guard Association of Mississippi and attend the NGAMS Conference.

Through the efforts of the Legislative Committee, the members of the NGAMS, the Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development for the Adjutant General, and our leadership in the Mississippi





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PINNACLE



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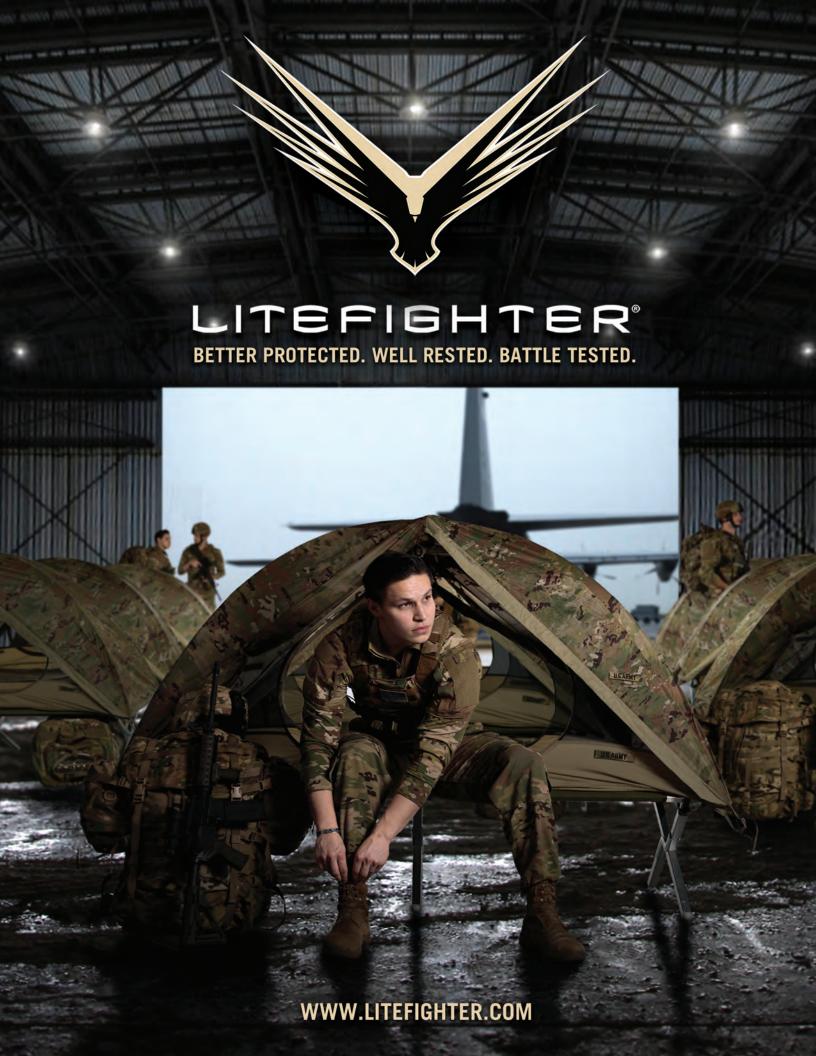
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- ★ Company name inscribed on a plaque displayed at the entrance to the NGAMS office
- ★ Logo featured on special publications

Plus more benefits outlined in the Patriot Partnership Program page on our website, www.ngams.org under the "Support NGAMS" tab.

Contact us for more information.



continued from page 43

Legislature we had an incredibly successful legislative session during one of the most difficult times in our history. The following proposals have passed and been signed into law. We thank all those involved, to include our friends at Mississippi Veterans Affairs, for their tireless efforts and their concerns for the well-being of our men and women in uniform.

First, we are ecstatic to announce that we obtained an increase of the Mississippi Military Department budget. Over the past five years we have seen an increase in the





budget for four of those years. Further, the Mississippi Military Department gained \$5,800,000 in additional appropriation for planning, construction, repair, renovation, replacement, furnishing and equipping readiness centers around Mississippi. These matching funds will be combined with the federal funding provided by the efforts of our federal delegation. Over the past five years we have obtained nearly \$13,800,000 in additional state funding. Prior to that no additional funding had been obtained since 2003.

We are also excited to report the following successes in the nonrevenue bills.

HB 1263

Creates Section 73-50-2, to provide that Mississippi occupational licensing boards shall issue a license to an applicant who establishes residence in this state if the applicant holds a current license in good standing from another state, has been licensed by the other state for at least one year and satisfies certain other conditions; to provide that the license issued to the applicant will be in the discipline applied for and at the same practice level as determined by the occupational licensing board.

Why this matters to us: This bill requires various Occupational Licensing Boards to issue licenses to Service members, military spouses and family members upon certain conditions, essentially making it easier to obtain the occupational license when locating from another state. This bill further expands on efforts we made last year to help our military families moving from or moving back from other states.

SB 2294

Amends Section 63-1-35, to authorize a veteran to establish proof of military service for veteran driver's license designation in person at the department of public safety driver's license station. It also amends Section 97-19-85 to provide criminal penalties for submitting false documents to obtain a veteran driver's license or other veteran's benefits.

Why this matters to us: This change removes a burdensome step for our Service members in obtaining the mark of veteran on their license. The veteran requesting the "Vet" designation now only has to present his DD-214, Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22. The veteran requesting the "Vet" designation may present his DD-214, Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22 in person at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Driver's License Station.

SB2598

Amends Section 45-9-101 to authorize the Department of Public Safety to waive the residency requirement for a concealed-carry license for a member of an active or reserve component branch of the United States of America Armed Forces assigned to Mississippi, or the spouse of the same.

Why this matters to us: This change is a benefit of service. It removes another burden to members of the Mississippi National Guard and their families that are moving back to Mississippi to have to wait to obtain a concealed-carry license. Further it is another tool in recruiting Service members to the Mississippi National Guard from other states. It builds on our previous efforts to make sure "reserve component" was included on the definition of a Service member.

SB2785

Amends Section 63-1-7, to exempt from the requirements of driver's examination and licensure active or reserve duty military members, their spouses and dependent children who are licensed as drivers under a law requiring the licensing of drivers in their home state and who have in their immediate possession a valid driver's license issued in their home state.

Why this matters to us: This change removes another burden to members of the Mississippi National Guard that are moving back to Mississippi to have to immediately update a license that was obtained or renewed in another state. Many of our Service members take their families with them during extended schools, short tours or other assignments. Often the family members will obtain or renew their driver's license during that time. Further it is another tool in recruiting Service members to the Mississippi National Guard from other states. It builds on our previous efforts to make sure "reserve component" was included on the definition of a Service member.

As we stated at the beginning of the article, every one of these changes are tied to a personal story of at least one of our Service members, family members, or retirees. It is our honor to work on their behalf. However we cannot protect and serve you if you are not a member and if you are not involved. Join today, attend the conferences, and find a place where you can serve in our organization. Your future and the future of your Mississippi National Guard depends on it.

Photo Credits

Spc. Jovi Prevot, Andrea D Thomas, Staff Sgt. Michael Needham

American and Uzbek Special Forces conduct training operations as part of Exercise Southern Strike 2021, April 20, 2021. Southern Strike is an annual training exercise hosted by the Mississippi National Guard to increase combat readiness across all branches of the U.S. Military. (Temporary unmasking for service members is due to mission requirements.) (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)

Soldiers swear in as officers in the Mississippi Army National Guard in Dalton Hall at Camp Shelby Joint Force Training Center near Hattiesburg, Miss., June 14, 2020. Soldiers completed Officer Candidate School on March 21, 2020, but due to COVID-19 restrictions the graduation was postponed for safety. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo By Spc. Christopher Shannon II)

Page 17

Mai, Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the Adjutant General of Mississippi, Command Sqt. Mai, John T. Raines, Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Billy M. Nabors, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, welcome home Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team as they return to Flowood, Miss., from Washington D.C., June 7, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Edward Lee)

Page 42

More than 160 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, are welcomed home at Thompson Field, Flowood, Miss., Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2020. The Soldiers have been serving in the National Capital Region since Spring 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith)

Page 51

Members of the Mississippi Army National Guard and staff members of the Madison County Nursing Home work together to test all the patients and employees of the facility in Canton, Miss., May 27, 2020. The Mississippi National Guard is supporting the Mississippi Department of Health by operating multiple test sites around the state to aid in the battle against COVID-19. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Christopher Shannon II)

Page 51

U.S. Army Sgt. Chase Toussaint, an allied trade specialist, with the 3656th Quartermaster Company, fills a container with non-drinkable water at a water distribution site at Provine High School in Jackson, Miss., February 25, 2021. The Mississippi National Guard is supporting the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to assist citizens impacted after last week's weather damaged Jackson's municipal water delivery system. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Christopher Shannon II)



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